



After LIFE Plan

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1. The aim of the After LIFE Plan

The aim of this document consists of defining the **process of transition** from the network created in the framework of Umob project, funded by the Life programme of European Commission, towards an autonomous network that will **continue to work for sustainable mobility at universities across Europe by means of its own resources.**

2. Methodology

When analysing the different possibilities for the network continuity, partners defined **two scenarios**:

Scenario A. In case of many universities were willing to be involved paying a fee to finance the activities, an association could be the right vehicle to support the network. Then, it should be considered the most appropriate jurisdiction within EU according to the location of the universities leading the project and the required formalities under national regulations.

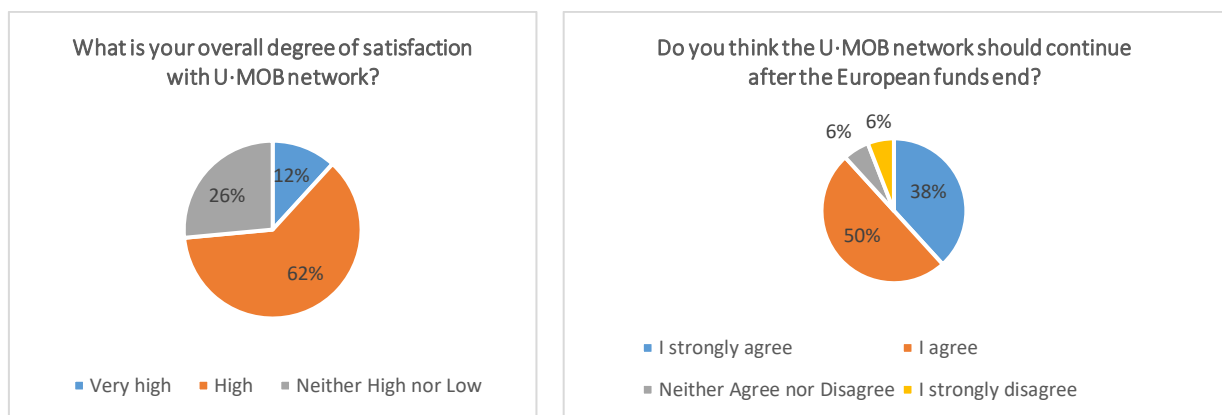
Scenario B. If not, it would be better to think of a more modest structure where the parties are linked by means of a cooperation agreement. We were thinking of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) describing the network's way of functioning, which includes no direct cash contributions but the dedication of the staff of the signatories. The network would work through regular online meetings and the production of materials developed by the members thanks to a collaborative work. If members agree on buying a service, the costs would be shared among them; if not, the network would be maintained thanks to the own university resources, particularly the work of the members (exchange of knowledge, discussion, materials, etc). In addition, contributions from sponsors could be a possible way to support some activities.

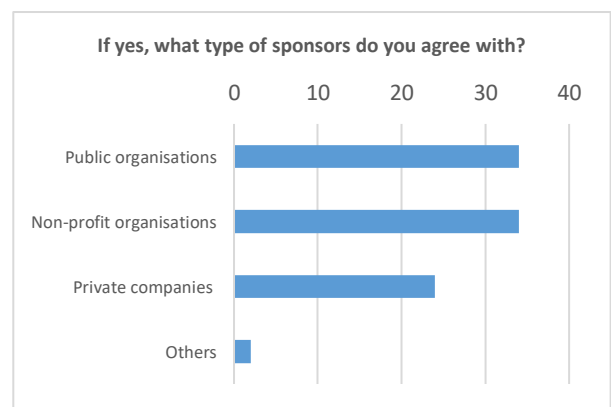
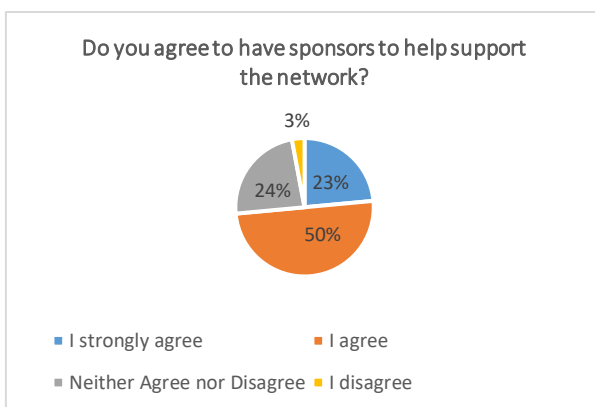
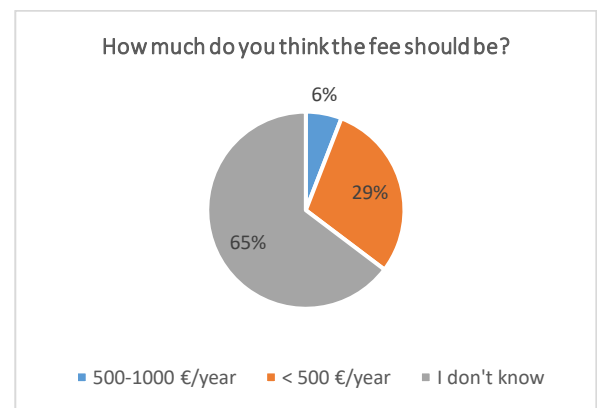
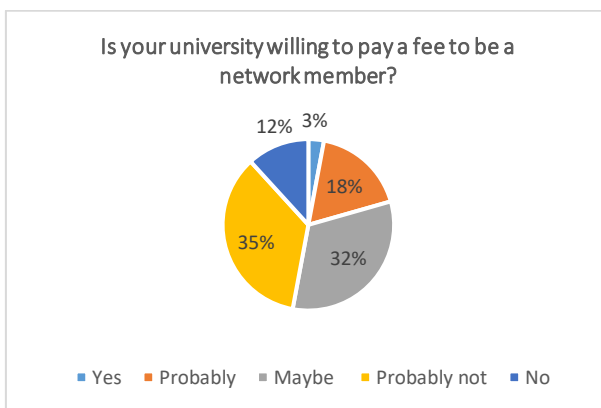
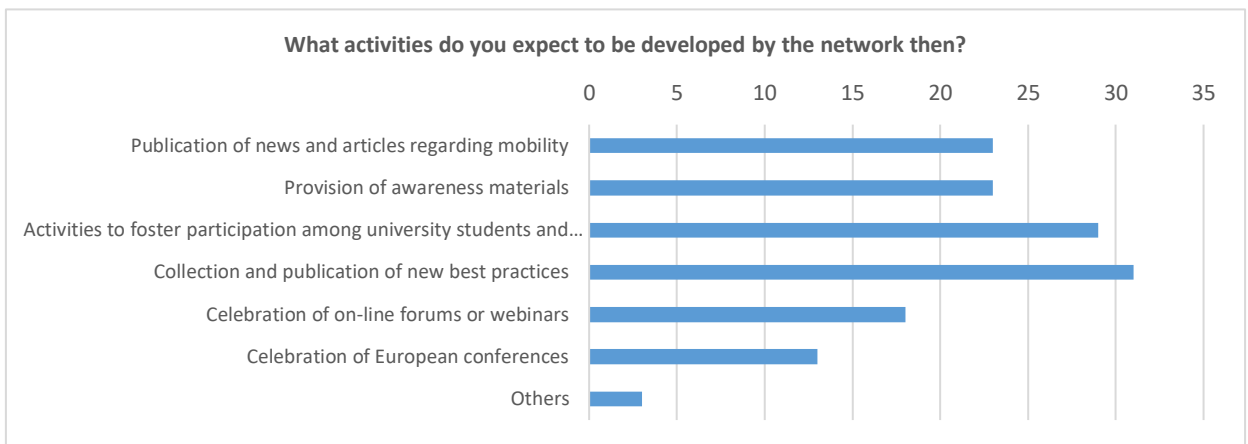
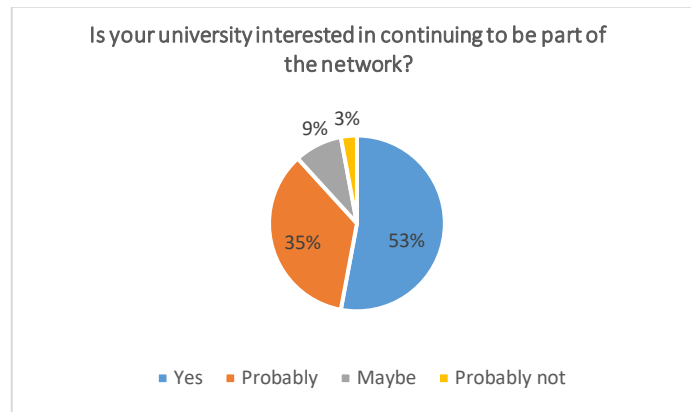
The scenario A would be supported by bylaws; the scenario B would be supported by a MoU.

The opinion of the universities of Umob network was key to decide how to continue after LIFE funding, so **partners launched a survey** to ask them on these crucial issues.

3. Results of the continuity survey

The answers and conclusions of the survey are as follows.





Conclusions:

- ✓ High degree of satisfaction with the network (74% between *High* and *Very high*).
- ✓ Most universities think that the U·MOB network should continue after the European funds end (88% between *I strongly agree* and *I agree*).
- ✓ Most universities are interested in continuing to be part of the network (88% between *Yes* and *Probably*).
- ✓ *Activities to foster participation among university students and personnel* and *Collection and publication of new best practices* are the most appreciated network activities.
- ✓ 47% of universities are not willing to pay a fee to be a network member (between *No* and *Probably not*). 32% do not know (answering *Maybe*).
- ✓ 65% of universities do not know how much the fee should be. 29% answer < 500 €/year.
- ✓ 73% of universities agree with having sponsors. They prefer public and non-profit organisations.

In the light of the results, **partners decided to act in two steps**, starting with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding to follow in the future with the creation of an association ruled by bylaws if the universities taking part agree.

This approach was explained to the potential members during the III European Conference hold in November 2021.

4. Step 1. Memorandum of Understanding

Partners developed a MoU, which was reviewed by partners' legal staff. It is included in Annex I.

The MoU defines:

- The network's purpose
- The network's activities
- The network's resources
- The management
- The new members
- The legal relationship among members
- The commencement, renewal and termination of the network.

A mailing with the MoU and a channel for register its acceptance was sent to the network at the beginning of December 2021 and the process of register is ongoing.

To this day (15/03/2022), 37 European Universities have signed Umob's MoU and others European Universities have informed that they will do it soon.

5. Step 2. Bylaws

Umob partners also defined a text of the network bylaws just in case the members decide to create an association in the future. This text would be the basis for discussion among members so that they would agree the final version of the bylaws.

The bylaws draft for future discussion defines the network's working rules (Annex II).

6. Tasks to develop by the network

The **tasks to promote sustainable mobility at universities** will include, at least, the following:

- ✓ foster the **exchange of knowledge** and experiences among the universities of the Network by organizing meetings, seminars, conferences and other similar events;
- ✓ **promote studies and research initiatives**, as well as publishing, related to sustainable mobility, aimed at training, updating and specializing the parties and all related operators in the sector;
- ✓ **collect best practices** from the universities and promote them within the Network;
- ✓ promote the **exchange of knowledge** developed by **public and private non-university bodies** operating in the sector of sustainable mobility;
- ✓ **promote any awareness-raising activities** to raise awareness and promote the involvement of students and personnel of the universities of the Network;
- ✓ **make publications** related to sustainable mobility and disseminate them among the Network;
- ✓ **foster the collaboration among universities and their related stakeholders** to promote sustainable mobility at European, national, regional and local level;
- ✓ **search for funding opportunities** to be communicated to all members of the Network, so that they can participate independently or in partnership with each other;
- ✓ **promote agreements with other networks** focused on sustainable mobility to broaden the impacts.

7. Collaboration with stakeholders

Umob members are aware of the importance of continuing to collaborate with stakeholders. For this reason, the MoU includes specifically:

- On its purpose: *foster the development of sustainable mobility policies among public authorities.*
- On its activities: *foster the collaboration among universities and their related stakeholders to promote sustainable mobility at European, national, regional and local level.*

So, stakeholders will be involved in the network activities, as already done during the Umob project, although they will not sign the MoU because they are not universities.

Network's members will count on the list with the stakeholders participating in different Umob project activities to contact with them for future initiatives (Annex III). This list will be the basis that will continue to grow considering the own contributions from every partner, taking advantage of their own contacts at their action scope.

8. Network sustainability

To develop the network activities, the members signing the MoU commit to:

- Provide at least one representative, playing the **mobility manager's** role in her/his university, to contribute with her/his **time and dedication** to the Network activities through a collaborative work.
- Participate in online Network meetings held quarterly to discuss on the development of the Network activities.



- Participate in working groups focused on specific mobility issues according to every university's needs, expertise or interests.
- Disseminate the Network outcomes among their students and university personnel.

Any **required service or funding to support the network activities** shall be agreed by the members and its costs will be:

- Shared among all of the members, or those who want to participate in the activity.
- Paid through a sponsor, such as foundations financing environmental or social initiatives, private companies providing mobility-related products/services. These organisations will be allowed to fund the activity through fees previously defined. Members will contribute with their own contacts to create a sponsorship list and conduct the contacts at their action scope.
- Grants by public institutions from European, national, regional and local grants for entities promoting sustainability within the framework of the European Green Deal. Members will contribute with their own knowledge on their action scope.

In the future, if the network decides to create an association and receive annual dues by members, the amount to be paid by each university would be defined according to the university population, for instance:

Small university (<10,000 students + personnel): 300 €

Mid-sized university (10,000-20,000): 400 €

Large university (>20,000): 500 €

Annex I. Memorandum of Understanding

Annex II. Network bylaws

Annex III. Stakeholders involved in the project

Annex IV. Sponsorship strategy

Annex V. Sponsorship brochure